

Claims Amendment E

1. (previously presented): A coupling for joining abutting ends of relatively soft plastic conduits, comprising:

- a) two half shells with a plurality of gripping teeth that are circumferential ribbed saw toothed shaped scallops,
- b) a seal, and
- c) a plurality of toggle clamps,

whereby, actuation of said toggle clamps causes said half shells to encompass, grip, and lock together said conduit ends and said seal prevents leakage in or out of said conduit ends.

5. (previously presented): The coupling of claim 1 wherein said two half shells contain circumferential ribs that compress said seal into contact with said conduits.

6. (previously presented): The coupling of claim 1 wherein said two half shells are made of material significantly harder than said soft plastic conduits.

7. (previously presented): The coupling of claim 6 wherein said two half shells are made of relatively hard plastic material.

8. (currently amended): The method of rigidly joining abutting ends of relatively soft plastic conduits using toggle clamps, and providing relatively smooth surfaces at the internal joint, preparatory to installation of cable in said conduits, comprising the steps of:

- a) inserting the end of first said conduit approximately half way into a ~~continuous circumferential encompassing seal~~,
- b) inserting the end of second said conduit into the opposite end of said ~~encompassing seal~~ approximately half way into said ~~encompassing seal~~,
- c) encompassing said conduits and said seal with a pair of hinged half shells having gripping means on opposite ends, and

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d) operating toggle clamp levers at opposite ends of said pair of hinged half shells, said toggle clamp levers being positioned substantially over said gripping means, and

e) ~~installing said cable in said conduits,~~

whereby, the two conduits are rigidly gripped and joined without the use of tools, the resulting joint is adequately sealed, ~~the interior of said conduits are rendered suitable for cable installation, and said cable is installed.~~ and the internal joint is relatively smooth.

9. (currently amended): A coupling for joining abutting ends of relatively soft plastic conduit, comprising:

a) ~~a generally cylindrical circumferential encompassing seal,~~

b) two half shells joined by a plurality of hinges with gripping means on a first end of said half shells, with gripping means on a second opposite end of said half shells, and a circumferential cavity between said first end and said second end to encompass and compress said seal,

c) a first toggle clamp integral with said half shells located substantially over said gripping means on said first end of said half shells, and

d) a second toggle clamp integral with said half shells located substantially over said gripping means of said second opposite end of said half shells,

whereby, actuation of said first and second toggle clamps causes said half shells to encompass, grip, and lock together said conduit ends and said seal prevents leakage in or out of said conduit ends.